

YORK COUNTY BRIDGE NO. 150
Pentland Road (T-370) over Codorus Creek
Jefferson Vicinity
York County
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-419

HAER
PA
67-JEFF,
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

YORK COUNTY BRIDGE NO. 150

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Location: Pentland Road (T-370) over Codorus Creek
Jefferson Vicinity
York County, Pennsylvania

UTM: 18.341150.4406000
Quad: Seven Valleys, PA, 1:24,000

Date of Construction: 1915

Engineer: Charles A. Williams

Builder: Samuel A. Arnold

Present Owner York County Board of Commissioners
One West Marketway, Fourth Floor
York, PA 17401

Present Use: Vehicular Bridge

Significance: This reinforced concrete arch structure is one of eleven (11) similar bridges currently owned and maintained by York County. Thirteen (13) concrete arch structures are currently in use on local roads in York County. This concrete arch is representative of bridge structures built at that time throughout the County.

Project Information: An evaluation (1995) advised replacement of the structure. To mitigate the adverse effect, the State Historic Preservation Office stipulated recordation of this structure. Recordation was performed to fulfill this requirement.

Thomas R. Leckrone, E.I.T.
C. S. Davidson, Inc.
Consulting Civil Engineers
38 North Duke Street
York, PA 17401

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF BRIDGE AND SETTING

This bridge carries Pentland Road (T-370) between Sinsheim Road and Smoketown Road approximately two miles southwest of Jefferson, PA. The road crosses the Codorus Creek in three places including this single-span reinforced concrete arch located near the intersection of Pentland Road and Daron Road. The overall structure length is 70' with a 35' clear span at the arch springline and a maximum vertical underclearance of 11'. The wearing surface is bituminous with a clear deck width between the parapets of 14'-0". The tracks of the Western Maryland Railway parallel Codorus Creek and cross Pentland Road 140' north of the bridge.

Codorus and Manheim Townships are mostly rural areas in southwestern York County, consisting of wooded areas and farms. Open fields, some wooded areas, and a few homes surround the bridge location.

HISTORY OF THE STRUCTURE

In 1915, the residents of Codorus and Manheim Townships petitioned the Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace of York County to appoint viewers to view a site for a bridge across the Codorus Creek at a point between Brodbeck's Post Office and Sinsheim Post Office. The public road crossed the creek at this point but no bridge existed. The expense to construct a bridge was too burdensome for either township to bear. The Court-appointed viewers, after viewing the site and interviewing citizens of both townships, recommended that a bridge be erected at the site. A grand jury therefore recommended that the County erect a bridge at the location.

On August 23, 1915, the York County Commissioners agreed unanimously to erect this new bridge. On October 11, 1915, bids were opened for construction of the bridge. The construction firm of G.A. and F.M. Wagman was the low bidder at their bid of \$1,364.00, with a proposed construction period of 120 days. However, this bid was rejected due to the proposed construction period. The Commissioners then unanimously agreed to award the contract for erection of the bridge to the next lowest bidder, Samuel A. Arnold, at his bid of \$1,540.00, with the condition that construction would be completed in 30 working days instead of the 90 day period that was given in his proposal. Mr. Arnold agreed to this, and the job was awarded to him.

Samuel A. Arnold was also responsible for the construction of a similar reinforced concrete arch structure, York County Bridge No. 56, which is located in Lower Windsor Township and is still in use today. It was constructed in 1914.

Charles A. Williams was the engineer who designed this bridge. Williams was born in 1873 on the family farm in Gladfelter's Station in York County. He designed and constructed many commercial, public and residential buildings in southern York County, as well as numerous bridges located in York and Adams Counties. Williams designed five single-span masonry arches and four other reinforced concrete arches for the County of York, all between 1912 and 1919. The other bridges he designed were for the State of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Williams was a partner in the firm of G.A. & F.M. Wagman from 1919 until 1929. Following retirement, Williams designed and constructed several private homes and represented the Farm Bureau Insurance Company. He was also the Springfield Township Justice of the Peace and an active member of Salem Lutheran Church in Jacobus, where he was buried in 1950.

Since its construction, the bridge has been open to all vehicular traffic. It remains open and unposted.

The bridge is significant due to its structure type. There are a total of thirteen (13) locally-owned reinforced concrete arch structures located in York County.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Engineering Drawings

C. S. Davidson, Inc., 1995, measured drawings, Bridge Inspection Program.

York County Archives, 1913, drawing by Charles A. Williams.

B. Historic Views

Photograph, January 19, 1926, located in York County Archives, York County Bridges, Book No. 1.

Photograph, Circa 1958, York County Bridges; Bridge crew repairs, 1952 - 1960, York County Archives.

C. Bibliography

York County Archives, Clerk of Courts Road Papers No. 8, January, 1915.

York County Archives, York County Board of Commissioners Minute Book, 1916.

Historical Society of York, Collection No. 30075, "Manuscript File of Charles A. Williams".

"The Autobiography of George Aloysius Wagman." [1948.] (Typewritten.) obtained from Joseph Wagman, York, Pennsylvania.